In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

distributing a device driver that is compiled to execute functionality under command from a kernel, wherein the device driver includes code defining ~~functionality~~ application programming interfaces (APIs) the device driver uses to execute the functionality ~~associated with the device driver~~ and excludes ~~a header, wherein the~~ header information including ~~includes unique symbols associated with the kernel and~~ version identification data of the kernel and kernel symbols associated with the version identification data; and

providing ~~distributing~~ the device driver to a computer via an installation package, the device driver to ~~which, when run on a computer,~~ dynamically create[[s]] the header information for the device driver by obtaining the version identification data and the associated ~~unique~~ kernel symbols from the kernel when installed on the computer.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the kernel is part of an operating system~~, wherein the kernel~~ and is identifiable by the version identification data.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the operating system is selected from the group including a Linux operating system and a UNIX operating system.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 3, wherein ~~in which~~ the provided device driver executes ~~an~~ the ~~application program interface~~ (APIs [[)]] when they are exported from the kernel.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 3, further comprising compiling the device driver into an object file prior to the distribution of the device driver.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 5, further comprising obtaining the version identification data from the operating system and generating a version object file that includes the version identification data.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 6, wherein the providing further comprises[[ing]] linking the version object file and the device driver.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 7, further comprising obtaining a kernel specific address of a module list associated with the APIs and passing the address to the device driver.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of ~~Claim~~ claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the device driver is at least one of a printer driver, a serial port device driver, an ethernet device driver, and a disk drive device driver.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture ~~computer program product~~ including a ~~medium~~ machine-readable medium ~~by a computer~~, the machine-readable medium carrying

instructions which, when executed by a machine ~~the computer~~, cause the machine ~~computer~~ to:

distributing a device driver that is compiled to execute functionality under command from a kernel, wherein the device driver includes code defining ~~functionality~~ application programming interfaces (APIs) the device driver uses to execute the functionality ~~associated with the device driver~~ and excludes ~~a header, wherein the~~ header information including ~~includes unique symbols associated with the kernel and~~ version identification data of the kernel and kernel symbols associated with the version identification data; and

providing ~~distributing~~ the device driver to a computer via an installation package, the device driver to ~~which, when run on a computer,~~ dynamically create[[s]] the header information for the device driver by obtaining the version identification data and the associated ~~unique~~ kernel symbols from the kernel when installed on the computer.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 11, ~~in which~~ wherein the kernel is part of an operating system~~, wherein the kernel being~~ and is identifiable by the version identification data.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 12, ~~in which~~ wherein the kernel is selected from the group including a Linux operating system and a UNIX operating system.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 13, ~~in which~~ wherein ~~the functionality included in~~ the provided device driver executes at least one of the APIs ~~application program interface (API)~~ when the APIs are exported from the kernel.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 14, further comprising obtaining the version identification data from the operating system and generating a version object file that includes the version identification data.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 15, further comprising obtaining a kernel specific address of a module list associated with the APIs and passing the address to the device driver.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 17, ~~in which~~ wherein the device driver retrieves a module list export head from the module list and imports the ~~required application program interfaces~~ (APIs[[)]] while ignoring the version identification data.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 13, ~~in which~~ wherein the device driver is dynamically loaded in a Linux kernel.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~product~~ article of manufacture of ~~Claim~~ claim 11, ~~in which an~~ wherein the installation module forms part of the device driver.

21-25. (Canceled)